

background checks since the private firms falsify the documents all the time, and then the Federal Government will either directly train or supervise the training by these firms because they falsify the documents about the training of these people, and the Federal Government will provide supervisors but it will be a private undertaking.

Now, wait a minute. Did they just describe a Rube Goldberg device or what? So the Federal Government is going to do all of these things, but we are going to maintain these private firms, so-called, in place because why? They are doing such a good job? No. Why? Why are we going to maintain them in place? This system that they are describing is so much less efficient than an all-Federal system like we do with Customs, INS, agriculture inspection, and like we do here at the United States Capitol to provide our screening security. Why do they want to give Americans security on the cheap? Change this system. Change it this week. Agree to what the Senate did 100 to zero.

AMERICANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, trace elements of the anthrax bacillus were discovered in my office in the Longworth Office Building, along with the offices of two of my distinguished colleagues, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACC) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT). Mr. Speaker, all of us have been busy, to say the least, since we received the call from leadership and security on Friday night, not only meeting with health officials, but security officials, and contacting constituents who came into contact with our office. It has been a busy time.

But I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to announce proudly that another attack on our national government has failed. As a Christian believer, I begin my remarks today by giving thanks to God, who I believe protected my family and my staff from this unseen menace. In our family, we often say that the safest place in the world is to be in the center of God's will, and we believe that we had his protection. As the Bible says, "It is good for me to be near God, I have made the sovereign Lord my refuge, I will tell of all your deeds," and thus I do so humbly today.

To the people we serve in Indiana, our message today is simple. They should be confident. My family and my staff are well and show no signs of infection. We have all been treated, as has virtually every individual that came into contact with our office. This incident should not, Mr. Speaker, be

cause for alarm but of encouragement. The system worked, thanks to the outstanding work of the Capitol Hill security, the CDC, and the Office of the Attending Physician, who I rise to commend today. We are requesting in all of our offices that anyone who visited our office from October 12 to October 17 see their physician and begin a prophylactic treatment of antibiotics over the next 60 days.

To the people who did this, whoever you are, you have failed again. You have failed to reach your target, and you have failed in a much more profound way, because by your actions you have steered the resolve of every member of this national government whose duty it is to bring you to justice or to seal your fate.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a word on behalf of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker of the House, and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, whose decision to close the House offices and commence this environmental sweep was so deeply maligned by many in the national media and even by some of our own colleagues in the U.S. Senate. On behalf of my wife, my children, Michael, Charlotte and Audrey, the nine full-time staffers in my office, from my heart to the bipartisan leadership I say thank you. Thank you for putting my family and my staff's well-being ahead of any concern about public relations or image.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, these times have fallen on broad shoulders, men and women willing and able to make the tough choices and stand by them. So I say to the troops in the field, our investigators at home, the postal workers who find themselves on the front-line of this domestic terrorism, and to the public at large, be encouraged. God has indeed put strong men and women in leadership of this national government for such a time as this. As it is written, fear is useless. What is needed is trust.

Mr. Speaker, over this last weekend my family again learned that our national leadership and the leadership in both parties in this Congress is worthy of our trust in these difficult days, and I am grateful.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address remarks in debate to the Chair and not to others who may be following the proceedings.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Mr. Tony Incashola, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Pablo, Montana, offered the following prayer:

God, Creator, I come before You today to ask that You look upon the Members of the House of Representatives and gift them with Your knowledge and wisdom. Creator, I pray for those who have gone before us, our ancestors and forefathers, who with their mighty words, deeds and sacrifices made this the great Nation it is. I especially ask You, Creator, to wrap Your loving arms around those whose lives have been forever altered by the tragic events of September 11. We truly are one Nation under God, and seek Your guidance in all decisions, small and large, that affect the diverse peoples of America.

We have reached a point in our history, Creator, where Your guidance and wisdom are of great importance. I ask Members of the House of Representatives to look to You for the path to follow so that justice and righteousness will be served. I implore You to listen to the prayers and needs of these men and women who have been chosen to lead this Nation. Give them the strength to make decisions, popular or not, to lead the United States of America into the 21st century. Now is the time for people of all races, colors, origins, and religions to come together to stand and show our strength as one. We must remember, as we move forward, that united we stand, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I ask this in Your name, God, Creator, and thank You for the many blessings You have already bestowed upon us. Thank you. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TRIBUTE TO GUEST CHAPLAIN

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1